

Waste Management Exploratory Committee Town of Westborough Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information	
Date	04Apr2023
Time	6:00-7:30 PM ET (Times are approximate)
Location	Forbes Municipal Building, Room 207/ Remote Participation

Attendance	Role
Peter Allen	Committee Member
Nathan Askew (Remote)	Committee Member, Vice Chairman
Lauren Buerstatte	Committee Member, Secretary
Irene Congdon	MA DEP
Katie Curtin-Mestre	Committee Member, Chairman
Rebecca Dolan	Committee Member
Dr. Alan Ehrlich	Committee Member Board of Health Chair
Shelby Marshall	Committee Member, Select Board Member
Jennifer Sullivan (Remote)	Board of Health Director
Kristi Williams (Remote)	Town Manager

Discussion Topics

- Meeting called to order at 6:05pm, Governors orders read.
- Motion to approve minutes from 07Feb 2023 by L. Buerstatte, seconded by P. Allen. 07 Feb. 2023 Meeting Minutes were approved via roll call vote: N. Askew- Yes, L. Buerstatte- yes; S. Marshall- yes; P. Allen- yes; K. Curtin- Mestre- yes; A. Ehrlich- yes.
- Rebecca Dolan, new member of WEC. The Committee introduced themselves individually.
- Finalize Recommended Go-Forward Options (Curbside including PAYT recommendation)
 - B. Harvey for Waste Connections confirmed with J. Sullivan that only leaf and brush pile in Hopkinton will be available for town. Therefore, this Committee and the town need to research other options for all other recycling items.
 - Technical Assistance Grant was approved, so Irene Congdon will be working with Westborough and this committee.
 - K. Williams did not pursue getting information from DPW about feasibility of hosting a Transfer Station/Reclamation Center.
- I. Congdon presented slides on current state of waste and recycling in MA as well as curbside program options- see attached slides.

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- One example of wasted trash is 70 lbs a person per year of textiles is being put in the trash. A. Ehrlich would like a finer breakdown of this graph. Irene will send it to him.
- There are little landfills/disposal facilities left in MA. The fact that we have Wheelabrator is good- many towns use vendors to drive the trash to other states. 2027 is when Wheelabrator contract expires for Westborough.
- I. Congdon suggested a waste to digestion operation, maybe multi-towns. (Anaerobic digestion)
- Westborough is still in the red (no change) on the trash chart- 2,200-2,500 pounds of trash per household per year vs. less than 1,000 pounds per year for many towns.
- Comparatives- see attached slides that were presented by K. Curtin-Mestre.
 - Trash, Recycle, and Organics Summary
 - Goal for meeting next week: make a recommendation of which curbside program we are recommending to Select Board (separate from funding at this point)
 - K. Williams- how does this work fit in to the assistance that I. Congdon gives us? A. Ehrlich: I. Congdon can help us apply for grants that are now applicable to Westborough; her knowledge and expertise with different waste management options; more engagement with her time leading up to the Select Board decision process, then when we are to look at RFPs.
- Discuss WEMC web page
 - S. Marshall suggested creating a web page for agendas and minutes since this Committee has gaining increased interest within the town. Owen Page with the town could set this up. 1-2 Committee members will have access to post agendas and minutes.
- Next meeting, Tuesday April 12th. L. Buerstatte motioned to adjourn meeting, A. Ehrlich seconded. Roll-call vote: N. Askew- Yes, L. Buerstatte- yes; S. Marshall- yes; P. Allen- yes; K. Curtin- Mestre- yes; A. Ehrlich- yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.